



Tennessee Shared Use Agreement Handbook

A guide for developing joint use and shared use facility agreements in Tennessee communities

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Mission

Protect, Promote, and Improve the Health and Prosperity of People in Tennessee.

Vision

To be a recognized and trusted leader, partnering and engaging to accelerate Tennessee to one of the nation's ten healthiest states.

Values

Teamwork, Integrity, Mutual Respect, Excellence



Introduction

Joint use agreements are an increasingly popular way for communities to increase access to healthy and safe spaces. With joint use, public and private property owners can open underutilized facilities for community use. Though often used as a strategy to increase opportunities for physical activity, joint use has many wide-ranging benefits such as building partnerships, and facilitating cost-sharing.

The goal of many communities is to use joint use agreements to develop relationships between schools and local government (parks and recreation agencies, for example) so that school facilities (gyms, tracks, baseball fields, soccer fields, etc.) can be used for recreation by neighborhood organizations and/or residents. Beyond working with schools, other communities have begun to explore agreements with nonprofits, hospitals, and

local universities in an effort to increase the available resources. Joint use agreements can help expand access to other community assets, such as



This guide serves as a source of information for both health professionals and communities who wish to establish and enter into a mutually-beneficial joint use agreement, so that all members of the community have access to safe and affordable recreational spaces.

Joint Use Agreements

A joint use agreement is a written or verbal agreement between two or more entities that may share assets, resources, and services.

A joint use—also called shared use, open use or community use—agreement refers to a formal agreement (written or verbal) between two or more entities that may share assets, resources, and services. The agreement establishes rules for the shared use of public property, sometimes including shared responsibility for maintaining the facilities. Implicit in the agreement is that public, and in some cases private, resources will be pooled to expand community access and use public space more efficiently. A common example of a joint use agreement is between a city and school district that share facilities such as a school's gymnasium, playground, and track and a city's athletic fields, concession areas, and aquatic complex. These agreements can range from informal or "open" public use to organized after-school and weekend athletic activities for adults and youth. Joint use agreements encourage schools and other organizations to open up their facilities to the public, allowing greater access of recreation space.

Successful shared use arrangements may occur in a diverse settings, involve a variety of partners, and have unique goals. Here are a few examples:

- An agreement between a city and a utility district to allow a community group to plant a community garden on utility district land
- A government agency acting alone to open its office buildings during the winter months to give residents a place to walk
- A community organization hosting free Zumba classes in local schools and churches
- A hospital developing a public walking trail on its property

Benefits of Joint Use Agreements

Crafting a successful joint use agreement requires planning, work and cooperation. Successful partnerships will take time to define the resources being governed and clearly articulate each partner's roles and responsibilities.

This type of comprehensive and open process will result in an effective agreement and minimize any potential conflict. Refer to page 16 for resources on joint use agreement development.

Tennessee School Board Policies

A majority of schools in Tennessee have policies in place that support community use of school facilities that state, "when not in use for school purposes, school buildings and grounds or portions thereof may be used for public, governmental, charitable, civic, recreational, cultural, and other purposes as approved by the Board." Resources on Tennessee School Board policies can be accessed through the Tennessee School Board Association website. <https://tsba.net/>

Liability

Due to governmental or sovereign immunity, school districts have a certain level of protection from lawsuits. This protection limits the extent to which public agencies can be found liable for any harm they may cause. This immunity helps to protect public funds, because any judgment against a public agency is paid out of the public coffers. The scope of governmental immunity varies from state to state, but all states recognize some form of governmental immunity while limiting the level of liability protection it affords and the range of situations in which it applies.

There's always a chance that a school district could be negligent in a way that leads to an injury and a lawsuit. The risks are small, and school districts can limit them further by taking steps to protect community members from harm.

Addressing immunity hazards before they occur is essential for the protection of everyone involved with joint use. When drafting a joint use agreement, the parties entering into the agreement should consult with risk management professionals and legal counsel to determine insurance requirements, to allocate risk, and to ensure the agreement is consistent with state and local laws and regulations. The State of Tennessee has two annotated codes (See pg. 7 of this guide) that support joint use agreements.

Benefits of Joint Use Agreements Include:

- Facilitating cost-sharing for maintenance of recreational facilities
- Providing increased resources for physical activities and education for children
- Increasing access to nearby places to allow community members to be more physical active
- Promoting partnerships across community agencies
- Creating a sense of community ownership and engagement
- Encouraging other organizations to open up their facilities to the public, allowing greater access of recreation space
- Revitalizing existing, underused recreational spaces and increase the value of neighboring properties

Tennessee Laws and Policies That Support Joint Use Agreements

Tennessee Code Annotated

- **29-20-112. Immunity of local board of education and school officials for activities outside of regularly scheduled school activities on premises of public schools.**

Subsection (a) of this legislation defines the terms premises, recreational activity, and recreational joint use agreement.

(1) "Premises" means any and all real property, natural or artificial landscape or waterway thereon, building, bathroom, gymnasium, facility, track, playground, tennis or badminton court, horseshoe pit, bleachers, stage, or other improvement erected on the premises for recreational purposes;

(2) "Recreational activity" means any activity undertaken for exercise, pleasure, or other recreational purposes including, but not limited to, basketball, football, soccer, baseball, softball, tennis, lacrosse, running, walking, wrestling, cheerleading, taekwondo, karate, community gardening and music lessons; and

(3) "Recreational joint use agreement" means a written authorization by a local board of education or a school official permitting a public or private entity to access the premises of a public school for the purpose of conducting or engaging in recreational activity and addressing conditions under which the permission is granted.

Subsection (b) and (c) outline the responsibilities, authorities, and liability given to local boards of education and school officials.

Subsection (d) assembly encourages local boards of education and school officials to require, in joint use agreements, that the other entity maintain and provide proof of adequate liability and accident insurance coverage. This includes, but is not limited to, adult supervision of recreational activity, prohibited activity, hours of operation, use of equipment, maintenance, and damage to the premises. Joint use agreements should also contain any a notice of the immunity when applicable provided by this section.

- **49-2-405. Use of school buildings and property.**

Subsection (a) of this legislation gives boards of education of the respective municipalities the right to permit municipal school buildings and municipal school property to be used for public, community or recreational purposes. This legislation does not cover the use of the school buildings and property for private profit.

Subsection (b) of this legislation states that neither boards of educations nor their members, or other municipal or county school officials, can be held liable in damages for injuries to people or property resulting from the use of school buildings or property authorized by subsection (a) (as long as the injury or damage was proximately caused by the gross negligence, or willful, wanton or

Joint Use Data from the Tennessee Department of Education 2017-2018:

- 18 districts reported having no Joint Use Agreement
- 113 (83%) reported that at least 50% of the schools in their district have a Joint Use Agreement
- 96 districts reported that 100% of their districts have a Joint Use Agreement

Success Stories

Joint use agreements vary greatly in scope, shaped largely according to the character of the community they are designed to serve. This section provides examples of how joint use agreements have been used to expanded opportunities for exercise in three communities across Tennessee.

Hamilton County School District

The Hamilton County school district spreads over a 542-square-mile area, encompassing urban and rural landscapes. The Board of Education operates 46 elementary schools within Hamilton County; and 24 of these schools fall within the city limits of Chattanooga. There is an estimated 130 acres of green space and playgrounds available to the public when school is not in session (after school, weekends, and school breaks). Prior to a joint use agreement being developed, many of the county's residents lived closer to a public school than a park, but the majority of schools kept their outdoors spaces closed off, and the county was struggling with overweight and obesity rates among children and adults.

As a means to provide the residents of Hamilton County with more opportunities to be physically active, program staff for Step ONE (Optimize with Nutrition and Exercise), an initiative of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, proposed a shared use agreement.

When school leaders in the county were initially approached with the possibility of engaging in a shared use arrangement, many expressed concern, citing safety, liability, and the costs of maintenance. Local educational professionals were concerned with keeping their students and their schools safe.

Getting the shared use proposal off the ground took more than a few casual conversations. The principals, school board members, and the community at large came together to make shared use a reality. The East and South Chattanooga Leadership Advisory Councils (ELAC and SLAC, respectively) were established to discuss shared use and to prepare a detailed report for local education professionals. The Councils conducted assessments on the benefits shared use could have in Hamilton County.

Traditionally, shared use agreements are made between two entities— most commonly between a city or county and a school. In this case, a district-wide “open use” policy, rather than individual joint use agreements for each facility, made more sense because the school district was willing to allow community access to their properties without a formal partnership with the county. An “open use” policy, as opposed to a standard shared use agreement, was more aligned with the Councils’ goals.

In February 2014, The Hamilton County Board of Educations passed an open use policy titled “Community Use of School Facilities”. This agreements states “when not in use for school purposes, school buildings and grounds or portions thereof may be used for public, governmental, charitable, civic, recreational, cultural, and other purposes as approved by the Board. A Use of School Facilities form is required for all groups or organizations requesting permission to use school facilities. The Use of School Facilities form expires at the conclusion of the school year in which it was approved.” During daylight hours on any day school is not in session (including holidays and weekends), the public is permitted to access the playgrounds and outdoor basketball courts of any elementary school; provided, however, that any recognized school group shall have the right to reserve any such property for its exclusive use in accordance with procedures established by the school principal. **The Hamilton County total population is 336,460 individuals. Since the open use policy, 29,690 individuals have gained access to green space within ½ mile of their home. Also, 8,284 children under 10 years of age within ½ mile of school playground now have access outside of school hours.**



McMinn County Rails to Trails Project

The Eureka Trail is a 4.8-mile multi-phase, multi-government rails-to-trails conversion located in Athens and McMinn County, TN.

In 2011, McMinn County authorized a feasibility study of the conversion which found that the project would be beneficial for both the county and the City of Athens. Getting approval for this project on the local level required support from several prominent politicians. A multi-government committee was developed with the City of Athens, McMinn County and the town of Englewood resulting in an inter-local agreement for maintenance, operations and expansion.

Citizen concerns were addressed and the purchase of the property moved forward using funding from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). RTP is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that provides funds to states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized use. Additional project funds were received through private foundations, individual donors, and other grant programs.

When acquired, several areas of the Eureka trail property were unpassable due to logs, high grass and weeds. The surface consisted of railroad ballast that was difficult to walk on and was even more difficult to ride a bike or ride horseback on. Once the Eureka Trail was passable private donations were secured for surfacing. The Eureka Trail planning committee met with all potential users of the trail and recommended that the trail use be limited to horseback riders, bicyclist, and pedestrians only. The wildlife habitat was enhanced with deer, turkey and various other species which use the trail to access water sources.

The Eureka Trail is managed with a multi-government agreement between Athens, McMinn County and Englewood. The Athens Parks Foundation serves as the private non-profit that facilitates the coordination of private donors. Community Partners and volunteers provide trail maintenance.

A senior engineering class at The University of Tennessee was tasked with designing the trailhead and urban routes that will allow people to walk safely from neighborhoods to the Eureka Trail. Long-term, the Eureka Trail is designed to link the city of Athens and the Town of Englewood, TN. A local property owner donated land adjacent to the Eureka Trail that will allow Athens access to a neighborhood and to implement an urban trail system to downtown and relative areas of Athens as designed by the University of Tennessee.

To date, the Eureka Trail development has received both national and local awards and recognition.



Health and Accessibility At The Trail

The Eureka Trail in conjunction with the State of Tennessee Project Diabetes initiative created the half mile Health Triangle at the Eureka Trail which caters to people with disabilities stemming from diabetes, obesity and poor eating habits. A series of large "pedestrian billboards" were developed for the triangle, which serves as a smaller walking area at the trail head. Fourteen billboards were placed along the triangle with information about diabetes, health food choices, and high blood pressure symptoms.

This section of the trail was specifically designed for individuals who wanted to start walking and for those with disabilities that prevent them from going out too far on the trail. The city of Athens traveled extensively to review trail surfaces and laid numerous courses of surface gravel as test strips from different quarries until the best surface for all users was found. This part of the Eureka Trail is unique. It encourages people to use the trail who did not think they could and informs trail users about healthy living.

Murfreesboro Tennis Complex

The Adams Tennis Complex is owned and operated by the City of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department and employs a staff of 12 plus a full time tennis pro. The 5.8 million dollar indoor tennis complex covers a footprint of over 77,000 square feet. Among the amenities are eight state-of-the-art tennis courts, two electronic scoreboards, an elevated mezzanine area for spectator viewing, locker rooms, lounge areas and a pro shop. The Adams Tennis Complex is located at Old Fort Park, complementing the existing 24 outdoor courts, providing connectivity to the Murfreesboro Greenway System, and enhancing the park system as a whole.

The need for an indoor tennis facility was highlighted during the development of the Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department strategic plan. The city's population was expanding, the popularity of the sport of tennis was increasing, and Middle Tennessee State University's (MTSU) tennis program had gained national recognition.

Realizing the need to build an indoor tennis facility and expand the number of tennis courts in the Murfreesboro community, the City of Murfreesboro reached out to the MTSU to see if indoor tennis courts would be an interest to their men's and women's tennis teams and athletic department. Through collective efforts of the tennis community, MTSU Foundation, and the City of Murfreesboro, a vision was formed and a goal was set to raise the funds needed and to build a facility that would meet everyone's needs.

Middle Tennessee State University Foundation established a fundraising campaign to help raise the needed dollars and to build a home court facility for MTSU. Through the generous contributions of the university, local philanthropic organizations and private donors, the foundation raised upwards of two million dollars. The City of Murfreesboro contributed the additional funding to reach the final goal of \$5.8 million.



On September 29, 2014, the City of Murfreesboro City Council and City staff, MTSU Foundation and representatives, along with the tennis community, gathered with partners, advocates, and supporters to break ground for the complex.


The Adams Tennis Complex added greatly to the existing tennis facilities at Old Fort Park. The City had built a 16 outdoor courts complex through a joint agreement with Rutherford County Schools which was adjacent to an existing 8 court complex, giving the capacity of 24 courts in one location. The addition of an 8-court indoor facility brought the number of courts in one location to 32. This allows the City and the University to broaden their tournament opportunities, bring in nationally ranked events, and boost the economic impact for local tourism.

The general public can experience a first-class tennis facility and engage in tennis programs and instruction at all ages and ability levels. The contributions of the Middle Tennessee State University Foundation helped to make the opportunity to play the game more accessible to every citizen in our community.

On July 15, 2015, the City of Murfreesboro, the MTSU Foundation, MTSU representatives and MTA cut the ribbon on a new facility. Since the opening of the Adams Tennis Complex, the City has sold over 230 memberships to individuals, families, and businesses, had several thousand users, hosted and booked tournaments, and is serving as the home for the Blue Raider Men's and Women's tennis teams.

Warren County Open Use Agreement

The Open Use of District Outdoor Recreational Facilities Agreement for Warren County was updated in early 2018, to become more competitive for the Tennessee Department of Health's built environment grant and other grants. The previous policy mostly focused on use of indoor District facilities (like using cafeterias for baby showers), but didn't mention outdoor courts or playgrounds. Under the current agreement, District facilities and grounds are open to community members at no cost for play and exercise during "Open Use Hours."

	WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION		
	Descriptor Term: OPEN USE OF DISTRICT OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
		EBHA	01/23/18
		Rescinds:	Original Issued:
			01/23/18

1 **OPEN USE OF DISTRICT OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

2

3 The Warren County Board of Education acknowledges that district facilities are a public

4 resource funded by taxpayers in this community. Board further acknowledges that children and

5 families in Warren County, Tennessee desire greater access to outdoor recreational space for play

6 and exercise. Tennessee law allows school grounds when not in use for school purposes, to be

7 used for public educational and recreational activities. It is the policy of Warren County Board of

8 Education ("District") to allow community members to use Open Use Facilities, as defined below,

9 for recreational purposes when such use does not interfere with school programs and activities.

10

11 **Open Use Facilities**

12 This policy shall apply to the designated outdoor portions of District facilities and grounds,

13 including tracks and fields, playgrounds and walking trails.

14

15 **Open Use Hours and Priority**

16 The District shall be entitled to the exclusive use of all Open Use Facilities for school and school-

17 related educational and recreational activities, including before and after school programs, summer

18 school, and at such other times as Open Use Facilities are being used by the District or its agents.

19 When not in use by the District, Open Use Facilities shall be made available to community

20 members at no cost for play and exercise as follows: (a) Monday through Friday, between the

21 hours of 3:30 pm and dusk and, (b) Saturday, Sunday and school holidays, between the hours of

22 6:30 am and dusk. For the purposes of this policy these times will be referred to as "Open Use

23 Hours."

24

25 **Parking**

26 During Open Use Hours, the District shall make parking lots at Open Use Facilities available at no

27 cost to community members using Open Use Facilities.

28

29 **Permitted Uses**

30 Community members may utilize Open Use Facilities during Open Use Hours for play and

31 exercise.

32

33 **Prohibited Uses**

34 The following are not permitted in Open Use Facilities:

35 a. Smoking or use of any tobacco-related products;

36 b. Alcoholic beverages;

37 c. Drugs or illegal substances;

38 d. Firearms or weapons except where access is protected by law;

39 e. Gambling

40 f. Entering closed Areas

41 g. Pets except for service animals

1



WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Descriptor Term:

OPEN USE OF DISTRICT OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Descriptor Code:

EBHA

Issued Date:

01/23/18

Rescinds:

Original Issued:

01/23/18

- 1 h. Glass containers
- 2 i. Motorized vehicles except for wheelchairs
- 3 j. Vandalism or removal of district property
- 4 k. Skateboards
- 5 l. Profane language
- 6 m. Other use or activity otherwise prohibited by law

8 **Signage**

9 District shall post signs at each school with Open Use Facilities that shall provide public notice of
10 the Open Use Hours and rules pertaining to Open Use Facilities.

12 **Limited Liability**

13 Tennessee Code Annotated 29-20-112 provides immunity for school districts, school boards and
14 school officials for activities outside of regularly scheduled school activities. Access to Open Use
15 Facilities is limited to the recreational use and enjoyment of community members.

17 **Evaluation**

18 District shall develop criteria and components for an evaluation and assessment of this Policy, in
19 particular, the level of utilization by community members and the impact on Open Use Facilities.

27 **Legal Reference:**

28 TCA 49-3-203(b)(4)

29 TCA 29-20-122

City of Athens Joint Recreational Use of Facilities

The City of Athens Joint Recreational Use of Facilities Agreement allows for the joint usage of school and park facilities for community recreational activities by the Board of Education and the General Government of Athens, Tennessee.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, GOVERNMENT
AND
THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR
JOINT RECREATIONAL USE OF FACILITIES

This Agreement, effective the 30th day of October, 1998, is between the City of Athens, Tennessee, Board of Education and the General Government of Athens, Tennessee (hereinafter referred to as the "Board" and "City") respectively.

WHEREAS, the Board and City desire to contract with each other for the use and services of certain recreation facilities and employees of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Board desire to furnish such use and services, and have power to do so; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City and the Board to work together in the development of joint usage of school and park facilities for recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, this joint usage of facilities provides taxpayers a better utilization of school building, athletic facilities, parks and recreation areas, and avoids a duplication of these facilities, thereby saving tax monies; and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board and the City that the cost of such services to the taxpayers financial profit to either the Board or the City and that such costs be consistent with the efficient administration of the affairs of the Board and the City; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above premises, the Board and the City agree to cooperate with each other as follows:

(1) This Agreement shall be in force in perpetuity but may be terminated in its entirety by the Board or the City with 30 days notice from one party to the other.

(2) A schedule of facilities, dates, and times for the use of Board and City facilities will be worked out in advance at a meeting between the City, Parks and Recreation Director and the Board's Superintendent.

This Schedule will be arranged to avoid conflict between School and City use and to protect the real and personal property involved. In scheduling the use of the school facilities, school events shall have first priority, City recreational programs shall have second priority, and all other events by other agencies or groups shall have third priority. In scheduling the use of recreation facilities belonging to the City, the city recreation activities shall have first priority, school events and programs shall have second priority, and other events and programs by any other groups or agencies shall have third priority.

(3) The City shall insure that an adequate number of competent personnel are available to supervise the recreation activities that take place after school hours and during holiday and vacation periods at the selected school facilities. The Board shall do likewise when using City facilities for school use. The agency providing the facility may reject an employee or representative of the other for lack of proficiency or skill.

(4) The Board or its representative shall have the right to enter all school areas and facilities made available to the City for community recreation activities under this contract for the

purpose of examining, inspecting, and determining whether the City has complied with obligations enumerated in this contract. The obligations may concern the care and maintenance of the premises, or the repair or improvements on the premises when necessary. The City shall have the same rights when the Board uses City facilities.

(5) The City may install equipment or improve facilities of the Board with advance consent of Superintendent, when it is not in conflict with school use, on areas selected by the Parks and Recreation Director of the City. The Board will approve the location and the plans and specifications for the placement of all such equipment, facilities, and permanent improvements upon school premises. Any installation of equipment or construction on school premises for community recreation purposes shall be at City cost. The cost of maintaining these improved areas and facilities shall be borne proportionally by the City and Board as determined by the relative use of the facilities. Each party agrees to maintain such areas and facilities in good condition during the periods of their respective responsibility.

(6) It is agreed that all City owned personal property, as well as other permanent improvements erected in or upon any school premises (even though it may be attached to the realty), may be removed by the City at any time, provided the City is not then in default in its performance obligations. The City also shall see that any such removal of property be effected before the expiration of the term of this agreement and that all damage caused to premises by removal shall be repaired by the City. It is further agreed that the Board shall have the same rights and obligations when City facilities are involved.

(7) When permanent facilities are erected on any school premises under Paragraphs 5 and 6, a separate contract shall be entered into between the Board and the City regarding use and payment, which shall be an addendum to this contract.

(8) It is mutually agreed that the cost for the contract period has been taken into account in arriving at the agreed upon exchange for uses, facilities, and services-provided, however, that the city shall be responsible for the payments for services of all personnel employed by the Recreational Department in connection with its use of such school properties.

(9) Each party shall keep the premises and facilities belonging to the other party in neat order.

(10) It is understood and agreed that the personnel employed by the City in its recreation program shall be under the supervision of the Recreation Director of the City and that school principals shall be consulted in the planning and administering of a recreation program to be conducted by the City in facilities that normally are under the principal's jurisdiction.

(11) It is agreed that any dispute or difference involving facilities that arise between the Board and the City shall be arbitrated and settled by the City Recreation Director and Superintendent of Schools, with the understanding that the City has responsibility for City wide facilities and that the School Superintendent has the responsibilities of all school property and facilities. A joint Park/School advisory committee may be established to approve development of facilities and to resolve conflicts.

(12) Any personal dispute or disagreement shall be arbitrated and settled by the City Recreation Director and the Superintendent of Schools.

(13) Each party will at all times maintain liability insurance under the Tennessee Governmental Tort Liability Act and protect and indemnify the other party against any and all loss, cost, damage or expense arising from any accident or other

occurrence to person or property on or about premises belonging to the other party occurring while it has control of the premises.

(14) The City will furnish and supply all expendable materials necessary to carry on a community recreation program for all ages on any premises belonging to the Board but under the supervision of the City. The Board shall do likewise when using any premises belonging to the City but under the supervision of the Board.

(15) Neither party shall sell nor assign its rights under this agreement. Either party may enter into sub-agreement with another group or agency for that group or agency to assume obligation for maintenance, cost or supervision for particular programs or events. Any such sub agreements, however, must be approved by all parties involved. The Board or the City will retain overall responsibility for the maintenance, cost or supervision.

(16) Sub-agreements or appendices to this agreement will be developed and implemented for each facility which is to be used. Since each facility may be used for different purposes and by different groups, the sub-agreements will include provisions for dates, times, purposes of use, responsibilities of each party and other provisions deemed necessary.

(17) This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties signing and their respective successors.

CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE

By: 

Its: MAYOR

BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: 

Its: SUB

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"Our school park agreement was based on the premise that we could split the costs and double the benefits. At the time we executed the agreement the state was promoting school park agreements and we decided to take it seriously. In one meeting I remember one of the council members looking at one of the school board members who was questioning the logic and saying, "Why wouldn't you sign this?" The council member (mayor) went on to say it makes sense for the school board, the city and most of all the citizens and that is why we are elected. The paper got signed and we have been going strong ever since. "

Austin Fesmire, City of Athens Director of Parks & Recreation

Resources

- **Active Living Research Promoting activity-friendly communities**

Since 2001, ALR has been at the forefront of building evidence on how to create communities that increase opportunities for physical activity. The organization's goal is to support, share and put into practice research that can promote daily physical activity for children and families across the world. Resources for creating joint use agreements are available on their website, including educational webinars, case studies, and research briefs. <https://activelivingresearch.org/>

- **ChangeLab Solutions**

ChangeLab Solutions works across the nation to advance equitable laws and policies that ensure healthy lives for all. The organization consists of an interdisciplinary team of lawyers, planners, policy analysts, and more, who work with neighborhoods, cities, and states to create thriving communities. Several resources for creating joint use agreements can be found on their website, including a Checklist for Developing a Joint Use Agreement (JUA), a series of Model Joint Use Agreements, one pagers/ guides, and case studies. <https://www.changelabsolutions.org/>

- **Kaboom! Playing Smart: Maximizing the Potential of School and Community Property through Joint Use Agreements**

KaBOOM! is the national nonprofit dedicated to saving play. Resources for creating joint use agreements can be found on their website, including a Joint Use Toolkit. The toolkit contains information on building relationships and liability, along with a checklist and case studies on different communities from across the nation. https://kaboom.org/cities/joint_use

- **National Recreation and Park Association**

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of public parks, recreation and conservation. NRPA is dedicated to educating professionals and the public on the essential nature of parks and recreation. NRPA has an online discussion guide that includes useful tools and tips, as well as agendas and resources for facilitating discussions around joint use agreements.

https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpaorg/Grants_and_Partners/Recreation_and_Health/Resources/Dialogue_Guides/Joint_Use_Final1.pdf

- **Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association**

TRPA is a non-profit professional society of over 800 individual and agency members (professionals and citizens) organized in 1952 as the Leader in supporting highly effective professionals to achieve healthy, livable communities. The TN Recreational Joint Facility Use Facility Finder (pictured below) is an interactive map which displays information about the various policies and joint use agreements in place at schools statewide. www.trpa.net



Image Source: trpa.net/shared_use

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